information on pollution control status and prosecution launched against defaulting units etc.

(d) and (e) Central assistance is provided to various State Governments under Paryavaran Vahini Scheme to create environmental awareness and involvement of people through active participation. The scheme is likely to be transferred to the implementing States soon.

Poaching in the Jungles of North Andhra and Konaseema

1713. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of ENVIRONEMNT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether poaching of wild animals and endangered birds continues unabated in the jungles of North Andhra and Konaseema with the forest officials turning a blind eye; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed for proper monitoring and to stop poaching activities, with the help of local volunteers and SPCA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) No, Sir. As reported by the State Government of Andhra Pradesh, there are no such cases of poaching of wild animals and birds in northern Andhra Pradesh and Konaseema.

(b) Does not arise.

Compensation for injuries caused by Animals

1714. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONEMNT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to enhance the amount of compensation/ assistance on death and injuries caused on human being due to attack by animals;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of amount allocated to States and Union-Territories for the purpose during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONEMNT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) The Government has enhanced the amount of compensation for death of human beings due to

attack by wild animals from Rs. 20,000/- — Rs. 1,00,000/-. The compensation in case of grievous injury is 1/3rd of the amount fixed for cases of death/ permanent incapacitation.

(c) The amount reimbursed to the States/Union Territories towards compensation for loss of human life and injuries caused by wild animals during the last 3 years is as under:

Sl. No.	Year	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)
1.	1997-98	109.15
2.	1998-99	70.10
3.	1999-2000 (till date)	105.79

Timber Mafia operating in North-East

1715. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a large number of timber mafia have been operating in North East who are indulging in illegally felling of forest trees;

(b) if so, what is the number of such persons apprehended during the last three years, along with the quantum of woods illegally cut by them; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that a number of Senior Forest Officers are also involved in these rackets and if so, what is the number of such officials so far identified and the action taken against each?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONEMNT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (c) In view of large scale deforestation and illegal felling in the North-Eastern States, Hon'ble Supreme Court *vide* order dated 15.1.1998 directed North-Eastern States to identify forest divisions where significant illegal fellings have taken place and initiate disciplinary/criminal proceedings against those found responsible. Hon'ble Court also directed that all timber will be transported from North-Eastern States through Railways under strict supervision of Forest Department. On receipt of information, Ministry has detained 177 wagons of the timber transported from North-Eastern States for physical verification. The verification reveals that